Technology and Ecology expressed its grave concern on the proposed Seed Bill;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the proposed seed Bill will stop farmers from seed saving, seed exchange and seed reproduction; and

(c) if so, the reasons behind such a move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. No such reference has been received from Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology expressing its grave concern on the proposed Seed Bill.

(b) No, Sir. The proposed seed Bill has provision for exemption from registration of varieties by the farmers under clause 43(1) of the said Bill which reads as under:

"Nothing in this Act shall restrict the right of the farmer to save, use, exchange, share or sell his farm seeds and planting material, except that he shall not sell such seed or planting material under a brand name or which does not conform to the minimum limit of germination, physical purity, genetic purity prescribed under clause (a) or clause (b) of section 6."

(c) Question does not arise.

Fish production in Bihar

†506. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enhance fish production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the ratio of Bihar in fish production in the country; and

(d) the measures taken and being taken by Government to enhace fish production in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following Centrally Sponsored Schemes are in operation during the Tenth Plan to promote fishery sector and enhancing fish

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi,

production in the country; (i) Development of Inland Fisheries, and Aquaculture; (ii) Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations; and (iii) Fisheries Training and Extension.

(c) The contribution of Bihar in inland fish production in the country is about 7.7%.

(d) The Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture. The scheme is having six components. The component of Development of Freshwater Aquaculture is being implemented by the State Government of Bihar through 33 Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) covering all the districts of the State. The expenditure on developmental activities, such as, construction of new ponds, renovation of ponds and tanks, first year inputs (fish seed, fish feed, fertilizers, manures, etc.), running water fish culture, integrated fish farming, fish seed hatcheries, fish feed units, training of fish farmers, etc. is shared on 75:25 basis between the Government of India and the State Government.

Crop loss due to mango disease in U.P.

507. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether mango crop in Uttar Pradesh has been severely hit by disease this year; and

(b) if so, the extent of loss suffered by mango growers in Uttar Pradesh and whether the Central Government propose to give any financial assistance to them, if so, at what rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government has not received any report about incidence of severe disease on mango from the State Government. However, the Government of Uttar Pradesh had reported that during the period of December-February infestation of powdery mildew, anthracnose, mango hopper and blossm midge occurs in general. These pests are very common in mango orchards and suitable controlled measures are taken by State Agriculture Universities and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institutions like Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture, Rehmankhera, Lucknow.